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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia announced the filing today of a criminal information on a corporate defendant for offering to sell drug paraphernalia in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Harvey L. Bryant III, the Commonwealth's Attorney for Virginia Beach, also announced that charges are pending for violations of Virginia State Code, 18.2-265.1-3 and the applicable forfeiture statute 18.2-265.4 (now codified at 19.2-386.2) for offering to sell drug paraphernalia.

The investigation surrounded the dismantling of local stores selling drug paraphernalia. Today, another corporate defendant and its store owner agreed to plead guilty to charges in federal and/or state court:

- Dominion Star Corporation, d/b/a "17th Street Jesters" of Virginia Beach, Virginia;
- John Alfred Shafer, owner of Dominion Star Corporation.

Mr. McNulty said, "This marks the second time in a week that this office has taken bold and decisive action to prosecute shops that sell drug paraphernalia. This head shop, situated in the heart of Virginia Beach's tourist area was an unwanted symbol of tolerance for drug abuse. Families that live in, and visit Virginia Beach, do not want their children exposed to such places."

Mr. Bryant stated, "Virginia Beach is a premier tourist destination for families and others. Our City will not tolerate stores that promote the drug culture, drug paraphernalia, or prey on our youth."

Assistant United States Attorney Kevin M. Comstock is prosecuting this case for the United States.